Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 05997 110613Z ACTION XMB-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 COME-00 OMB-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 /034 W ------082444 110618Z /10

O R 110600Z JUL 78 FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2193 INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CONFIDENTIAL SEOUL 5997

PASS U.S. EXIMBANK IMMEDIATE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, BENC, KS

SUBJECT: SEOHAE TERMAL POWER PLANT - EXIMBANK PRELIMINARY COMMITMENT

NO. 78-0-4156

REF: SEOUL 5891

- 1. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT KECO AND MINISTRY OF ENERGY HAVE AGREED THAT, IN THE INTEREST OF EMPLOYING HYUNDAI'S CHANGWON PLANT FOR PURPOSES INTENDED, AND, IN THE INTEREST OF U.S. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS, THEY SHOULD IF AT ALL POSSIBLE SELECT HYUNDAI BIDS INCLUDING GENERAL ELECTRIC AND COMBUSTION ENGINEERING
- 2. HOWEVER, GETTING AROUND THE IMPROVED HITACHI PACKAGE BID POSES DIFFICULTY INASMUCH AS IT WOULD BE VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO DISQUALIFY SUCH A CAPABLE AND EXPERIENCED COMPANY ON TECHNICAL GROUNDS. NEVERTHELESS, IF U.S. EXIMBANK REPLIES ON JULY 11 WITH FINANCING COMPETITIVE TO JAPANESE EXIMBANK, ROK/KECO WILL USE BANK'S RESPONSE AS REASON FOR SELECTING HYUNDAI/U.S. FIRM BIDS.
- 3. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT HITACHI HAS LEARNED OF KECO/MOE CONFIDENTIAL

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DESIRES AND IS SOLICITING IMPROVEMENT OF TERMS BY JAPAN EXIM-BANK. TO FORESTALL NEW JAPANESE OFFER, KECO WILL MAKE ITS AWARD IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT OF EXIM'S CABLE ADVICE OF IMPROVED PACKAGE.

4. SITUATION RESTS CRITICALLY ON EXIM'S ABILITY TO IMPROVE FINANCING TO 7.75 PERCENT. THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS BID IS

ENHANCED BY THE FACT THAT IT WILL DETERMINE THE OUTCOME OF THE MUCH
LARGER SAMCHONPO PROJECT.
STERN

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: THERMAL POWER PLANTS, PROPOSALS (BID)

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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

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Subject: SEOHAE TERMAL POWER PLANT - EXIMBANK PRELIMINARY COMMITMENT NO. 78-0-4156

TAGS: EFIN, BENC, KS, KECO

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